

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/483,181, filed January 13, 2000, and also claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/122,557, filed March 2, 1999, the disclosures of all the foregoing applications being incorporated herein by reference.

REMARKS

No claims have been canceled, amended or added herein. Therefore, claims 1-96, 108, 114, 124, 126 and 128 are under active consideration.

The specification has been amended to include references to a provisional application for which the benefit is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) and to two non-provisional applications for which the benefit is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 120.

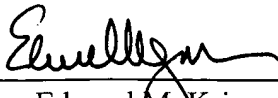
It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is

required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

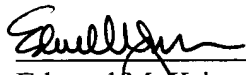
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 7, 2002

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 7, 2002


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Dated: January 7, 2002